(1) Increasing the strength of judges in the High Courts and Subordinate Courts.

(2) 'Fast Track Courts' extended upto 31.3.2010.

(3) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.

(4) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged.

(5) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.

(6) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts. Government is implementing a scheme for computerization of District & Subordinate Courts and for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(7) Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2009) which provides for establishment of nearly 5067 Gram Nyayalayas and will bring justice at the door step of the rural people.

Drop in polling percentage

1711. SHRI JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that voting percentage has decreased during the last general election;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the voters not casting their franchise;

(c) whether Government would consider the option of compulsory voting; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A Statement showing the figures relating to total electorate, total no. of votes polled and percentage of votes polled in general elections to Lok Sabha held from 1952 to 2009 as provided by the Election Commission of India is attached herewith (*See* below).

(b) The Election Commission of India has intimated that there are no proven/established reasons that can be ascribed to voters not exercising their franchise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The matter of compulsory voting was considered by the Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms and did not favour it.

Statement

Comparative statement showing voting percentages since the First General Election to the Lok Sabha

Year	Total Electorate	Total no. of votes polled	Percentage of votes polled
1951-1952	173,212,343	105,950,083	44.87%
1957	193,652,179	120,513,915	45.44%
1962	216,361,569	119,904,284	55.42%
1967	250,207,401	152,724,611	61.04%
1971	274,189,132	151,536,802	55.27%
1977	321,174,327	194,263,915	60.49%
1980	356,205,329	202,752,893	56.92%
1984	379,540,608	241,246,887	63.56%
1989	498,906,129	309,050,495	61.95%
1991	498,363,801	282,700,942	56.73%
1996	592,572,288	343,308,090	57.94%
1998	605,880,192	375,441,739	61.97%
1999	619,536,847	371,669,104	59.99%
2004	671,487,930	389,948,330	58.07%
2009	716,676,081	417,158,644	58.21%

Grant-in-aid for FTCs

1712. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after September, 2006 Government had discontinued the status of Centrally sponsored scheme for Fast Track Courts (FTCs) functioning in the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware that the grant-in-aid being provided to FTCs is very meagre, whereas the recurring and non-recurring expenditure is on a very high side;

(d) whether Government is contemplating to raise the grant-in-aid to FTCs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Government has not discontinued the scheme of Central assistance to the States for Fast Track Courts. In fact while extending, the scheme for a period of five years beyond 31.3.2005, Government